

WORKERS of the WORLD UNITE THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST

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The Passing Show.

Credulity is leading millions to the shambles.

Those who blindly swallow what the capitalist press preaches, go on expecting to be robbed and into battles to be slaughtered.

A shark in Sydney has been inflicting a badly last week that he had in a few months. The newspapers were not much shocked, don't seem so grief-stricken. Shark-bait sharks kill hundreds of their own kind in slums and factories.

Andy Fisher has been traducing Mr. Massey, the bludgeoner of New Zealand workers. Both are agreed in the matter of defence—not of the workers but the dominion of the shirkers.

The number of officers killed in the present war is abnormally large. The authorities are beginning to suspect that many of them are being shot from behind.

Church attendances still declining, and Socialist audiences are growing. It is not seen as if the workers were getting tired of hearing the parsons' "let it be" cry.

"Barrier Daily Truth" takes the description of the burning of the German Club thus: "German Club is burnt. Revenge on Our Enemies." Like other Liberal and Capitalist papers, "Barrier Daily Truth" soaks the mad dogs of the mob with to the wrong man.

"The Fourth Commandment, 'Honor thy Father and Mother,' enjoins us to take part in the present war. The United Kingdom is the mother of Australia, and we should do everything in our power to assist her in this supreme crisis in her existence. Archbishop Kelly, Father Kelly should read and quote more of the Commandments. 'Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.' These commandments are all broken in war, but the archbishops generally hide the fact in the interests of their masters, the warlords and capitalists.

Sydney "Sunday Times" (Jan. 15) printed a number of interviews with men and women who were strongly of the opinion that Australians should vigorously prosecute the war. The statements were all made by wealthy men and women who were quite unanimous in the belief that the workers should go to the front, and the duty of working-class mothers to give up their sons was vigorously emphasised. It didn't seem to occur to the "Times" to get a statement or two from working-class mothers showing that those who are comfortably placed should be the first to go. The widows and children of the well-to-do wouldn't suffer so much if their fathers and brothers were killed or maimed, as the widows and children of workers would if their breadwinners were slain. Let the rich go and fight. They have the leisure. The workers are too busy getting food for their families.

Let the workers note how enthusiastically certain comfortable people are writing to the papers urging them to go to the war. When the war is over, let them note how few wealthy ones get ground on wooden legs and crutches. They will learn something from noting these things.

"The nation is concerned in this trouble as a whole, and not as a whole represented by one of its parts."—"Sunday Times." This should be read in a reverse way to get the truth out of it.

The social columns of the press give lengthy details of the doings of the young bucks of society. Trips to the mountains, to America, and Japan, are described with



The End of the War.

much flattering attention to retail and an extraordinary amount of holiday shopping. The workers, however, are going to the front.

At a meeting in London, January 8, Sydney Socialists considered the situation as posed on behalf of nationalised industries, Austrian and Turkish working on the wharves. The Union decided to fight the case to a finish in the Courts, and enclosed all that the Executive had done so far. It will do the wharves good to have a well leader on this occasion.

When the workers have sense, they will get off the fence, and stop to be treated as hacks. They will gain independence and will bid to get hence, the claps who are now on their backs.

"I believe," writes Mary White, "in the failure of Socialism and the triumph of capitalism among the warring nations. There is something that the American Socialists should take to heart. The war would not have been checked by any of the great nations, but we should note the extraordinary loss of the reckless Americans, who in the long run are battling against their class interests. Their dead bodies that all the trenches or lie torn with shrapnel on the open plains are a rebuke to those who hold in our hearts a vision so much more splendid than theirs. Why should they have made of themselves pawns to be played with and then thrown away by the captains of greed and of force. It must be that the gospel preached by the international something more stirring than the gospel preached by the working class."

The gospel preached by the ruling warlords appeals to the majority, which is still mentally on the same plane as the tribal Indian. It is an appeal to the savage instincts which impelled primitive man and the brute to never miss a chance to kill. The Socialist appeal, on the other hand, is to the few who are intellectually ahead of the times. To appeal to the majority is like talking to a mob of drunks from a soapbox in front of a pub. The intelligent man here and there is the one Socialist should go after, the others are impossible.

"There are only two real flags in the world henceforward, the red flag of democratic Socialism, and the black flag of Capitalism."—G. B. Shaw.

John Darling, the big wheat buyer, left £1,000,000 when he died. Now all the wheat buyers, with the daily papers at their head, are squawking because N.S.W. Government has commandeered the wheat harvest. There's a reason.

"S.M. Herald" recently admitted that the Labor Party had done well. The rank and file should ponder what the "Herald" meant. Doing well with the "Herald" usually means doing the workers.

"Once again the Sydney Markets are glutted with fruit, and the garbage destructors at Moore Park are busy consuming the surplus. And this at a time when the charitable organisations are distributing large quantities of food to the poor and needy of the city."—"S.M. Herald." Fruit and capitalism, which the "Herald" holds for, is produced for profit. If profit cannot be realised, the fruit is destroyed.

A correspondent in a Sydney daily raved against foreigners last week for keeping up the price of fruit. They have captured the trade, he said, and are robbing the public. He didn't know that the shopkeepers have to pay enormous rents, which have been steadily increasing for some years. To pay the increasing rents the price of fruit has to go up, and be kept up.

"When will the workers learn to think on class-conscious lines?"—"Australian Worker." When they cease to believe in Lib-Lab papers.

The Fisher Government is developing the Northern Territory. Last year £228,988, 7d. was spent on jails and £205,748 on schools.

Carmichael, N.S.W. Minister for Education, is a cute politician. Conscious that his Government is only marking time instead of fulfilling its promises to Labor, he is rushing about with a full head of patriotic steam on shouting for more drill, more men, and more duty to the glorious Empire. His strong appeals for more men are discounted by Colonel Wallack, who says that plenty of men of splendid type are coming forward voluntarily and "we are thus able to meet all demands for reinforcements, and still have a large number in reserve." If Carmichael's intentions were honourable and honest he would leave recruiting to the State Commandant and attend to matters connected with the education of children and the employment of the thousands of workless dupes of his government.

"It is curious how at times even the paid servants of Labor permit themselves to be used by Big Business as pawns in its game."—"The Australian Worker." It isn't so curious when you know that the paid servants of Labor are also in the pay of Big Business. Even the "Worker" allows Big Business to use its columns as an advertising medium for the extension of its operations.

The "International Socialist Review" of Chicago, refers to the last election victory of the Australian Labor Party as merely a victory for Liberalism. This puts Andy and his merry men in their true light.

Queensland Labor Member Theodore had a big advertisement of his party's claims in the "Australian Worker" of January 9. His whole contention seemed

to be that Collin is Labor's friend, not Short. Just where the difference is between Ryan and Theodore, and Denham and Barnes, he didn't say, but it seems that Denham and Barnes are in the place where Ryan and Theodore want to be.

Dr. Maloney, Labor Member for Melbourne in the Federal Parliament, speaking on the War Pensions Bill, made a serious charge against Senator Pearce's department. He asserted that certain wealthy persons had obtained commissions in the Expeditionary Forces by donating a motor car to the Defence Department. A Liberal member wanted to know what the Minister and the Assistant-Minister had to say to that, but neither had anything to say, so Liberals undertook to defend the Labor administration. It was an eye-opener. It should be to all Laborite dupes, to see Joe Cook and Mr. Manifold standing up for Senator Pearce's administration.

"War is organised murder, pillage and cruelty. I acknowledge ourselves to be a bloodthirsty horde of brigands."—General "Chinese" Gordon.

"The economists of the capitalist era talk solely of the means and ways by which profit and surplus value may be increased. They discuss only its relative size, its increase or decrease. But the thing itself, its origin and descent, is not discussed. It is passed in silence that profit is exacted from labour power by paying less for a day's work than is produced by it. The gentlemen talk only of the 'wealth of nations,' but not of their poverty. And though this was due to ignorance in the beginning, it has later become sheer roguery."—Joseph Deitzgen.

English authors have been blathering about England being called upon to give this country back its freedom by overthrowing German militarism. It is necessary to be in full possession of the ignorance that prevails in England regarding German affairs, as well as in Germany regarding English affairs, to believe that the German system of government is a foreign body in Germany, an outside force which is borne with against their will by the sturdy descendants of Goethe and Schiller. On the contrary, it has its foundation deep in the development of capitalism, and no foreign power needs to come to the rescue, any more than a German victory should have as its object freeing the Russians from Czarism. Such statements are signs of a benighted nationalism which exalts the home country and picks it out as the salvation of the rest of the world. Mr. Wells, who speaks of the necessity of destroying "Prussian Militarism," will open his eyes when he sees this militarism he hates as "Prussian" gain a foothold in his own dear old England. For that is what appears, from an investigation of the forces at work, to be the result of the war as affecting domestic political conditions: a noteworthy equalisation of the three great world-empires which have been drawn in to this conflict. The great dissimilarity which they showed because of their different historical development, gives place to the identity of their imperialistic necessities. Their close association in the war compels them to adapt themselves to each other, so that none of them may be inferior to the others. The tendency of these readjustments can be briefly stated in this way: England becomes more German, Germany becomes more English, and Russia becomes more European than it was before.

For the proletariat will in this way take on a much more uniform and consequently a much more determined character in all countries.—Anton Pannekoek, in "The International Socialist Review."

At the Annual Conference of the Railway Workers and General Laborers' Assoc. of N.S.W., 3 hours were spent in debating a motion to withdraw from the P. L. L. The motion was defeated, the majority not having found their political misleaders out yet. The Conference carried a motion in favor of Industrial Unionism as against Craft Unionism, declaring that "an injury to one is an injury to all." The debate on these two motions indicated that Socialist propaganda is being pushed on in this Union by our comrades.

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Here's freedom to him that would read.
Here's freedom to him that would write.
There's none ever feared that the truth should be heard.
But they whom the truth had indited—Burns.

Production for Profit.

A GLUT OF FRUIT.

Last week saw tons of fruit destroyed in Sydney in the interests of profit. Certain prices had to be maintained, in face of a glutted market, so there was nothing for it but to destroy the vast harvest of fruit. Meanwhile fruit stands at a prohibitive price. It is now a luxury only possible for the well-to-do. Even the "Telegraph," which sticks for the present profit-system, stared aghast at the phenomena of present conditions. Said the "Telegraph":

"If there is a city in the wide world where fruit ought to be cheap, but where it is amazingly dear, it is Sydney. Yet when there is no drought, when the crops are abundant, when there are all the appearances of an overstocked market, the retailer appears to flourish the same cards in the window as he does when the harvest is deplorable, and the importations are unequal to the demand."

The "Telegraph" noted the symptoms of a diseased social system, but it stopped there. It would be dangerous to propound a remedy, because all remedies short of the abolition of the profit-system would manifestly fail. Under this system fruit is destroyed while city children pine and hunger for it in vain. And our great organs of public opinion, such as the "Telegraph," and our omniscient Labor Governments, are afraid to tackle the problem.

HIGH-PRICED MEAT.

Sydney papers have been conducting a mock inquiry into the high price of meat. Like fruit, meat is becoming prohibitively dear, and the working population of Australia is threatened with being starved out. As is usual when an inquiry into any particular form of public robbery is to be made, the press representatives went to the robbers' camp for an explanation of the trouble. The managing director of one of the principal firms concerned—the Colonial Wholesale Meat Company, Ltd.—said that the drought was one cause of high prices. Lack of water conservation was another. But he wound up with the pregnant statement that "the wholesale price of meat is always considerably less in Australia than in England, France, Germany, America, or any of the coun-

tries that do not produce sufficient for their own requirements."

The meat industry being run for profit, and in a few hands, the Australian is left without, while his product is shipped to Europe and America, where prices are higher than they are here. If the local market happened to be glutted, as the fruit market now is, we should probably see the surplus meat destroyed along with the fruit. But the foreign market saves us from witnessing that spectacle. Our lords of the meat ring are able to make the desired profit by shipping their workers' product to where prices are highest, while those who produce it tighten their belt and wonder where the trouble arises. It is a beautiful system in the opinion of many, but we can hardly understand those who are rushing to Europe to fight for it.

THE VALUE OF INDIRECT ACTION.

Certain opponents of Socialism are very much impressed with the assumption that to elect men to Parliament, or to a seat in a Municipal Council, or to any responsible position, where they come in contact with a new and seductive environment, is a futile if not a fatal act for the working class. The anarchist, Bordat, said before the Lyons tribunal in 1893 what most of the anti-Parliamentarians would now readily assent to, "To send working-men to a parliament," he declared, "is to act like a mother who would take her daughter to a brothel." And Bakunin, the famous anarchist of the International, said "Working-class candidates transferred to bourgeois conditions of life into an atmosphere of completely bourgeois political ideas, ceasing to be actually workers in order to become statesmen, will become bourgeois, and possibly will become even more bourgeois than the bourgeois themselves. For it is not the men who make positions, but, on the contrary, positions which make the men." Such have been, and are now, the criticisms the anarchists have directed against working-class political action, and anyone who will turn to any of the literature of so-called direct action, will find again and again the same thought. Yet, in spite of the gloomy view of this school, men do perform useful work in responsible positions and in an unpromising environment. Let anyone consider the remarkable exposure of the Leeds authorities which we printed in last issue, and he must see that it is so. The auditor—a Socialist—"got there" in good style, and his exposure of the oily aldermen and their strike-breaking fraternity generally was everything to be desired. The Socialists of Leeds couldn't all get into the Council, but they sent a trusty man there to see the accounts. They adopted the indirect method of having a representative in the councils of the enemy, and they scored beautifully. The man they sent in couldn't be bought or bluffed. He didn't succumb to the oleaginous atmosphere in his new environment, but did good service to the class which he represented.

M. B. Maher writes:—

"Although still a member of a 'scab' union, I believe in most of the arguments put forward by your 'movement' and am a constant reader of your paper. I am writing you to touch upon the murdering competition now going on in Europe, and with the hope that you will be able, by means of an article in your paper, to clear up a little complexity in my mind, and I am sure in the minds of a good many more who are in the same mental position as myself.

"Now, then, I have never been outside Australia, but making allowances for any patriotic prejudice which may prompt the general belief that we (workers) have a greater degree of comfort here and also more democratic institutions than the belligerent nations engaged in this war. I am one who believe that such is the case. Are we not justifiable in upholding those institutions on the score of them being a means to an end, that is, the freer propagation of the doctrine of Socialism and the dissemination of revolutionary literature, etc.

"To sum up, the pet argument of the other side is, 'How would you get on if the Germans came here?' You might also mention what would be the possible effect of such an invasion. I hope you will clearly understand that I am simply out for information. I am continually coming into contact with 'boneheads' and those are the only questions which trouble me. If you publish a good solid argument from your viewpoint, I can guarantee its dissemination for whatever it is worth.

"P.S.—I may as well clear my mind thoroughly while I am at it. Under Socialism, what would be the incentive for men to develop and use their brain power

as regards inventions, etc., and how would you deal with those men of superior intellect?"

Admitting for argument's sake that we have "a greater degree of comfort here" than the workers in Europe have, and that we are justified in upholding our standard of comfort, how can we uphold such by rushing into the fight in Europe? If we fight for the Allies, we fight to maintain the standard of comfort of London, Liverpool, Cradley Heath, and France and Russia. If for Germany, then against the standard in these places, and for one which the uninformed Britisher, who lives and rears a family on less than a pound a week, imagines is much below his own. The fact is we cannot fight for our standard of comfort by joining in the war. Neither can we fight there for our wonderfully superior institutions and the freer propaganda of Socialism and the dissemination of Revolutionary literature. No doubt we are proud of our superior freedom here, especially in our large cities—where the sale of literature is restricted on Sundays, and where the right of public meeting is denied. How would we get on if the Germans came here? That question is founded on the belief that we should be crushed and have all our precious privileges and pretty rights taken from us. We know better. Under German rule we should still be allowed to walk about, look for jobs, read the bible, go to church, etc. In Germany, the trades unions are amongst the strongest in the world; the Socialists also are very numerous there, and there are over 80 Socialist papers published, besides millions of pamphlets, leaflets, and other literature annually. Our truthful papers tell us that the Germans are degraded because they get very fat after manhood is reached, and that they are voracious eaters. Well, they must get something to fatten on. The Australian is generally lean and lanky. The Englishman is physically degenerated through trying to rear a family on under a pound a week. On which side should we fight, then? Should we go to Europe to fight, or should we stay here and fight the class that is whooping for the war and urging all workers to go to the front, while it stays here to force the standard of comfort down?

The last question our correspondent asks is a hoary one: What would be the incentive under Socialism for men to use their brains? Under Capitalism there isn't much incentive, yet men do use their brains. The brainy man under any circumstances delights in mental exercise. He cannot help getting intellectual pleasure out of brain work. The intellectual worker to-day, with his limited leisure, delights in studying a good book. Why? Not for any money he gets out of it. What he learns he is glad to give freely to others. Under Socialism the brainy man wouldn't be very different, but he would have more scope for the employment of his powers. To-day the brainy man is ruthlessly exploited by cunning. Under Socialism such exploitation would cease, but the demand for his work and the rewards, both material and intellectual, would be vastly increased.

It is generally assumed by the opponents of Socialism that the inventor wouldn't invent, and the brainy man wouldn't use his brain if there were no capitalists to employ him. It is an unwarranted assumption, and one that is negated by history and the known facts of life. Every soap-box orator, every literature seller at propaganda meetings, is a refutation of it.—Ed.

One of the surprises of the war has been the apotheosis of Russia. The whole of the country's unenviable history has been forgotten, and she is now the wonder and admiration of civilized democratic and Christian Europe. Almost with one accord the English press, English authors, men of science, and reformers have suddenly discovered that Russia is not the awful despotism she was supposed to be. Instead, she is the true friend of democracy, and the defender of freedom. The fear of Germany and the hatred of her is the beginning of wisdom. From the time of Ivan the Terrible to the beginning of last August, Russia was universally regarded as the acme of autocracy, oppression, reaction, superstition and encroaching imperialism. It was the land of the ukase and knout, of the torture cell and the scaffold, of pogroms, massacres, martyrdoms, and fearful Siberian horrors. Tsarism was the world symbol of libertyicide, and to characterise any act of oppression as "worse than Russian despotism" was to describe it as the limit of what was abhorrent and unbearable. All this has been altered mainly by the poison of a venal press—a power which is rapidly becoming more dangerous to human freedom than all its other enemies combined.

The Shrinking Sovereign.

It is a fact so well known that it needs no elaboration, that within the last 15 years the cost of living has increased enormously, and that this increase has hit exclusively the wages-earning class. While the prices of luxuries have remained stationary, or have actually decreased, the prices of necessities have universally gone up. Motor cars and high-class furniture are cheaper to-day than they were 15 years ago; but foodstuffs, footwear, and all the daily necessities of a working-class family are considerably dearer than they were at the beginning of the period. The wages worker finds that the sovereign which he receives from his boss at the end of the week when he is allowed to work, is of less value than it was before.

Various reasons for this shrinkage in the value of the sovereign have been given. All of them no doubt contain elements of truth, but it is as well to recognise that the causes are composite. The most common belief is that the rise in prices is due to the enlarged output of gold. Gold being a commodity, if there is more of it, it becomes of less value, and a smaller quantity of other commodities can be had for it. This is no imaginary cause. Prices will continue to rise if the volume of gold produced continues to increase faster than the volume of transactions it is called upon to conduct. That the output of gold has increased enormously since 1890 the following official statistics prove:—

Year.	World's Production of Gold in ozs.
1890	5,749,000
1895	9,615,000
1900	12,315,000
1905	18,396,000
1910	22,023,000

The augmented output of gold is one material factor which has brought about an increase of prices of commodities, but only one of several.

The expansion of bank credit has also played a considerable part. Expanding bank reserves of gold are connected with expanding credit and with rising prices. Gold forms at present the basis of bank credit. The quantity of bank credit wanted depends upon the profitable uses for which it can be put. These profitable uses imply high prices, and the increased supply of credit makes these prices higher still by creating a larger volume of money. Statistics issued at Washington show that the total credit granted by the banks alone in various forms was in 1889 7,782,512,534 dollars; in 1899 10,704,007,019 dollars; and in 1910, 20,593,333,483 dollars. This means a doubling between 1900 and 1910, and consequently a doubling in the particular forms of capital which are embodied in the shape of credit.

A third cause of rising prices of commodities is the rapidly increasing waste of commodities and misapplication of energy, connected with the upkeep of enormous armaments by the great powers. Large quantities of wealth are annually destroyed in this way, thus leaving a diminished quantity of wealth for distribution. Also millions of men give the best part of their lives to military training, which again means less wealth produced. Thus the quantity of consumable commodities is constantly tending to diminish, while money in various forms is rapidly increasing; and consequently we can only get smaller and smaller quantities of commodities in exchange for a given amount of money.

More contributory causes might be mentioned. Here I shall only draw attention to the rapidly accumulating public debts, and the over-capitalisation of industrial enterprises. National debt is increasing in all countries. Australia before the war had public debts (States and Commonwealth) to the amount of £300,000,000, for which it paid more than £10,500,000 per annum in interest. After the war this debt will be much larger. This will mean that a larger capitalistic class will have to be maintained in idleness, and consequently there will be a more severe drag on the producing part of the community. Over-capitalisation of public companies mean the same. Capital invested in business is made to pay certain interest. If nominally twice the capital is invested in a company in the form of bogus shares, as needed really to be invested, the capital is made to produce twice as much profit in order to pay the dividend. This again adds to the idle class, which must in the end mean that there is less and less of the commodities which are produced by the workers left for distribution among the workers. A more or less rapid increase in nominal wages does not make any difference in the final result as far as the workers are concerned. The trouble is that they have to keep and feed a con-

The Modern Press.

The late Pope, in his dying moments, sadly deplored the vanishing power of the Church. Once, he said, the Church was powerful enough to prevent war, but now such power has vanished.

There is a great truth here, a truth which the present war has made manifest, and which the dying Pope clearly saw. The power of the Church has gone. Once it could prevent or provoke war, now it can do neither. Its power has passed into other hands, and all it can do is to bless the wars that others initiate.

The power that the Churches' spokesmen once possessed is now wielded by the writers of the press. They are the new preachers. Into their hands has passed the means of promoting peace or stirring up strife. The words which the Prophet put into the mouth of Jehovah himself: "I the Lord create peace and make evil," might fittingly now be spoken by a Hearst or a Harmsworth, for they undoubtedly have the power to not only stir up strife, but to "make the wicked for the evil day."

We were told by cable that during his dying moments the late "Prisoner of the Vatican" was repeatedly asked to bless the arms of contending nations, and that he refused and replied: "I bless Peace." He was not asked by his fellow Christian rulers to bless peace, or to endeavor to promote it. No, he was merely desired to bless the wholesale murder promoted by the men of affairs who loom so large in the columns of the press.

The Pope's opposition to the war did not seem to have much influence on the Powers engaged. They went about the business of destroying each other "in the name of God," and with "God's help," with the same enthusiasm as if he had never spoken. A mightier voice than his was proclaiming in "Christian England," "Holy Russia," and "Protestant Germany," the "righteousness of the war," and the "justice of the cause," and Christian was so busy destroying Christian that the Pope's attitude was soon forgotten.

The Press was speaking in "the name of the Lord," and was manufacturing public opinion, and the Press is now the first great power. Mightier than Kaiser or Czar, the Press wields an absolute sceptre. It rules and reigns, and the proud and wealthy, the tyrannical and despotic, as well as the enslaved and exploited acknowledge and feel its power.

Admirers of the Press tell us that the Press is the servant of the public, but it is the public's master. It is the great machine which makes public opinion. It is the channel through which the thoughts of its owners flow into every brain. The thoughts and sentiments concocted for the unthinking are conveyed to their minds by the Press. And how does it utilize its power?

Does the Press use its power in the interests of humanity? Does it educate and enlighten the people? Does it try to destroy prejudice and promote international fraternity? Is it the upholder of justice and the opponent of wrong? Does it uphold the oppressed and oppose the oppressor?

Study the papers around you—Tory, Liberal, or Laborite. What do they offer? They glorify wealth and exploitation; emphasise the sayings of hireling politicians; describe in detail the doings of royal persons and aristocratic parasites; sing the praises of warmongers and War Trust magnates; report the inanities of dignitaries of the Church, which has for centuries helped to keep the people in ignorance and subjection.

The object and aim of the modern Press is to defend and strengthen the existing regime. To do this, there is no meanness which it is not prepared to present as high-minded nobility; no crime which it does not laud as right and proper; and no rascal whom it does not eulogise as a hero. The end justifies the means, and the end is to preserve and strengthen Capitalism with all its wrongs and iniquities.

The Modern Press laughs at consistency. What it supported yesterday it tramples in the dust to-day. What it trampled on yesterday, it raises on high to-day. The trickster whom it kicked so hard last week, because his followers seemed weak, it fawns on and worships to-day, because he seems likely to succeed, and is, moreover, susceptible to the lure of gold. So long as he can be used he is supported, but woe unto him when he becomes useless to the Press and its owners.

The city slum poisons the workers' children in thousands, but the slum owner is a supporter of the Press and is above criticism. The Moloch of War devours hundreds of thousands, but to the Press War is divine. What a glorious career the murdering business holds out to rising manhood? What victories, promotions, and



fame is there for those who fight for King and country against cowardly enemies? How proudly ought parents to send their sons to do battle for God and the right! And if they are riddled with shot or torn to fragments by shrapnel, how gloriously they died! What heavenly delight to have sons with legs or arms shot away—what glorious honor! Of course, the cowardly enemy dies in disgrace. No honor is his, though the Press of his country may falsely assert that he has covered himself with immortal glory.

The workers who toil in unhealthy factories and ill-ventilated mines are fed and mentally gorged by the Press, which soothes them with tales of the freedom they enjoy, and the superiority of conditions in their country compared with those of neighbouring peoples. This is done so that they may remain the willing slaves of the more fortunate ones, who by cunning and class legislation, have the power to dupe and exploit them. They become poorer and poorer, while those for whom they work become more opulent and extravagant. Their home-life is embittered by want, and their children are pressed into the service of insatiable greed. At first the wife takes the husband's place in the slave mill, but soon the children take the place of the wife. Meanwhile, the Press clamors for more wage-slaves. Be fruitful and multiply the number of slaves, and let us have unlimited immigration to supplement the supply afforded by a lagging birthrate.

If the workers become conscious of their degraded condition, and become rebellious, the Press first intimidates and then calls for their destruction. They must be taught to respect law and order. It would never do to allow the rabble to rule. Then the police and military are set upon them, and they are clubbed and bayoneted into subjection.

Occasionally the Press dabbles in social reform—in other countries, and conditions are described in their true light, but the workers must understand that such conditions do not obtain in their country. Their country is perfect! Their homes and standard of comfort are far above all others!

The Press, more than the Church, is now the main stay of capitalist society. It supplies the chloroform which deadens the faculties of the working class. Far more on the Press than on the Police and Army rests the modern class-state, with its economic injustice, its thieves ethics, and its mental disablement and unmaning.

Deliverance from this malevolent and demoralising influence can only be brought about by those who know of its existence. On them devolves the work of replacing the unhealthy fare with the healthy. In other words, they must see that the antidote to the poison is liberally supplied to those who need it. The working-class must be urged to avoid the poisoned spring from which it is now drinking. And as the Press can only be exposed by the Press, self-defence demands that a new Press be established to confront the old. Against the capitalist Press, with its reforms, tariffs, and church news, its glories of war and magnificent butcheries, the workers must sustain a Workers' Press, edited and controlled by workers.

The workers are the majority. They are millions, while the owners of the Capitalist press with their hirelings are only thousands. How comes it then, that every attempt to establish a workers' Press is doomed to languish in difficulty, and often to die in despair? It is because the majority of the workers read the enemy's papers and have their minds crippled. The food which they partake of has the effect of a powerful narcotic. Whoever partakes of the food offered by the daily Press forgets his friends, his family, and himself, and becomes a mental derelict who drifts hopelessly with the current or frantically raises his hands against his class. You can hear them in the trains, trams, hotels, public assemblies, and even in their trade unions, cursing the views of those who are fighting for them, and applauding those of the hostile Press. They are drilled by the enemy for the enemy. They are armed with lies against themselves. When they realise this, and turn from the hostile Press to their own, they will transfer the Power which the Capitalists now wield through their Press, to themselves through their own Press.

The worker who subscribes to the papers for his enemies, while neglecting his own, commits mental suicide. He is false to his class, to his brothers and sisters, and his children. The worker who does this is adopting the surest and most effective means of enslaving himself. The worker who supports his own Press is seizing the readiest weapon for his own deliverance.

Why not support your own Press and transfer power to yourselves? Why not deliver yourselves from the thralldom of your enemy's Press?

Socialism will give equal opportunity to all.

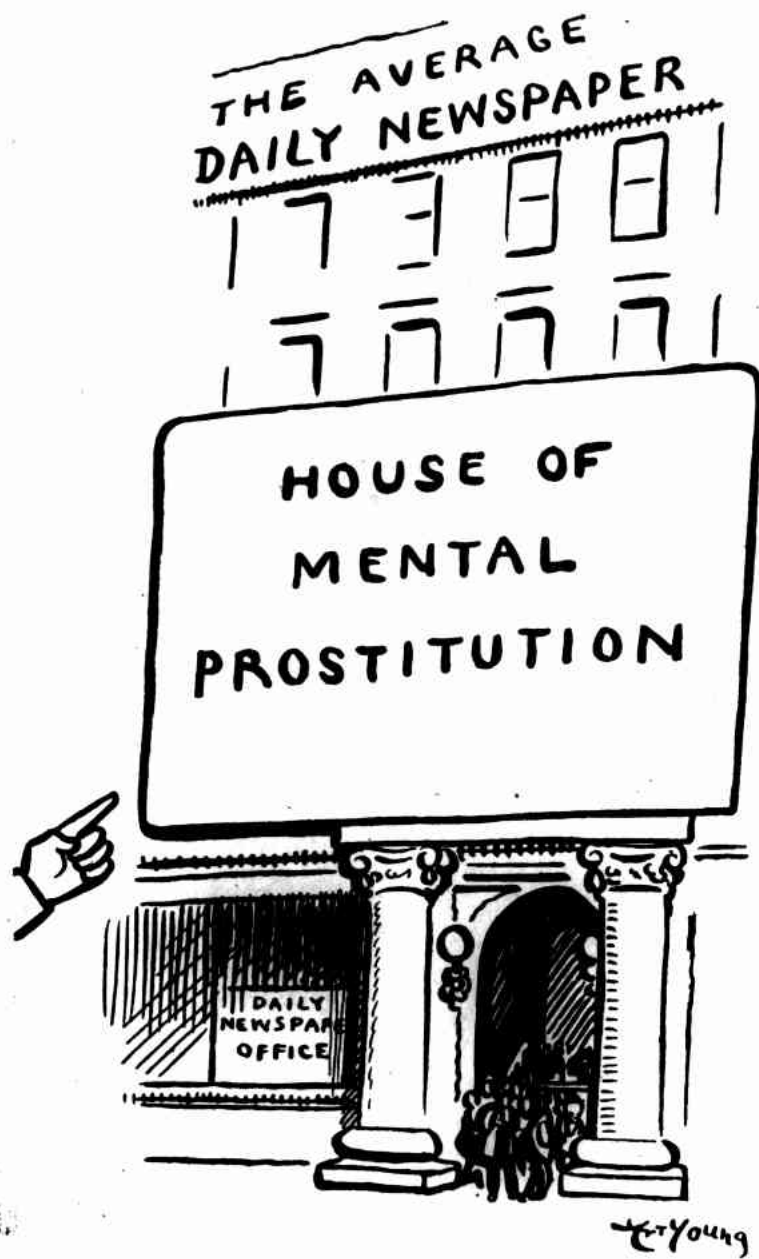
WAR! WAR! WAR!

SYDNEY NEWSBOYS ATTACKED!

"More Atrocities," in Sydney.

Enemy Attacks Australian Boys and Attempts to Starve them into Submission!

The Boys hold a strong position but the Enemy's artillery is deadly. False news issued daily. Wholesale Lying and cheating. Scabs, Spies and Bogus newsmen engaged.



The War has afforded the Sydney evening papers a fine opportunity to increase their enormous profits.

Hitherto the proprietors have had a luxurious time but they were not satisfied. Capitalists never are.

They had their eye on the Newsboy's earnings and determined to cut them down. Capitalists simply dote on low wages!

They chose the time when thousands are out of work to make an attack on the Newsboys knowing that an unemployed Army usually affords a plentiful supply of Scabs and strike-breakers. The Capitalists always use Scabs and Strike-breakers. While squeaking about "more atrocities" by Germans in Europe, the Proprietors of the Evening Papers attack defenceless boys and attempt to Starve and Exterminate Woman and Children who depend upon their moderate earnings. Capitalists always do this. They are committing "more atrocities" than the Germans in our midst. Therefore don't hate the Germans! Hate the Enemy in our Midst, The piratical Capitalists!

The Boys hold a strong position, but the public must help them to fight the Enemy, which has the murderous engine of war—the lying, deadly press. The Capitalists own the press and use it against the workers and the country's interest.

The present attack on the boys is an attack on the Workers' Home; the Workers' right to Marriage; and on the Church which the Worker attends, because the press is bearing False Witness Against its Neighbor—the Boys on Strike. If you doubt this, read the Evening Papers' Statements as to the Boys earnings.

According to the statement issued by the Press, the Boys are earning more than any other class of Workers, more than Members of Parliament, more than most professional men, and more than is good for them.

According to this bitterly biased and unblushing statement, Boys who are ill-clad, shoeless, and keenly eager to earn a mere living; Boys who go out in all weathers, and risk their lives in the crowded streets at all hours, are earning as much as £10 a week.

The Statement is absurd. It is more absurd than many of the Statements they print about the War. The proprietors would have us believe that the boys sell nearly half a million papers daily. The proprietors assume that the public is an Ass fit only to be fed on Chaff and Thistles.

The proprietors are calling for Recruits to fight the Germans. We Socialists call for Recruits to Reinforce the Boys and fight the lying, cheating Capitalists who own the papers.

If the Boys are beaten the press will attack other workers. It is the workers sworn enemy. It is the friend of Spies! Scabs! and Pimps! It is the enemy and the great siege gun of the Capitalists.

The press claims the right to control the streets, to say who shall be permitted to sell papers and who shall not. It is issuing badges and permits to "honest respectable boys" who are willing to scab on their fellows and help the Capitalists to make more profits. This is Capitalist impudence. The workers make the streets. Let the workers

see that they are used by No Class as a monopoly.

The press calls upon Young men to get into the Ranks and Fight for their King and Country. It says pour King and Country calls you!

We Socialists say Alright! The Fight is here, where the Boys are attacked by a Ruthless and cold-blooded foe.

Get into the Ranks by all means! Fight in the War—the Great Class War!

Don't Buy and Sell the Evening Papers. Buy and Sell the INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST which has been fighting this fight for years.

The INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST will soon come out DAILY if you make that possible by buying it.

When it does it will make War upon our real enemies—the undying foes of the Working Class—the Capitalists.

Don't Scab on the Boys by buying the Evening papers! Spike the Siege Gun of the Capitalists! Support your own paper, the future Working Class Daily, the INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST.

Socialism is humanity's only hope, All else is illusion.

Imperialism and the War.

An application of Socialist principles to the fundamental problem which demands solution.

By KARL KAUTSKY
(Continued.)

On the other hand, the constant effort of industry to increase the cultural region through relations with which it carries on its activity may take on the most varied forms. It is true that this effort is necessary to the continued existence of capitalism, but this does not mean that the capitalist is compelled to resort to any particular methods of expansion.

One form of effort in this direction is called imperialism. This was preceded by another known as free trade. Half a century ago this latter was regarded as the last word of capitalism just as imperialism is to-day. Free trade became a controlling principle through the predominance of the capitalist industry of England. Great Britain was to be the workshop of the world was to be one mighty agrarian region for the exploitation of England, to take England's products and furnish England the necessary raw materials and means of sustenance.

But this beautiful dream came to an end. . . Agrarian states constantly tend to build up their own industry. At first it was the countries of Western Europe and the Eastern states of America which went through this phase and became competitors against England. They opposed English free trade with their tariff systems. Their idea was to divide the advantages of trade with the agrarian regions of the world among the great industrial powers. England had to defend herself against this movement, and this was the beginning of imperialism.

Imperialism was especially fostered by the system of investing capital in agrarian countries. Railroads were built to develop the resources of thinly populated regions. To protect these and insure their operation it was necessary to have governments which could and would look after the interests of the capitalists. The home governments of the capitalists naturally served these purposes most efficiently. These remarks apply also to extensive investments looking to the development of mines or any other source of wealth.

So there developed with the tendency to export capital to agrarian lands the effort to reduce these lands to a state of political dependence.

Another element in the situation operated in the same direction. It has already been noted that there is a tendency in every agrarian region to develop independent industry. In case a country in which foreign capital has been invested is able to develop its own industry and maintain its political independence the benefit of the foreign capitalists is only temporary, as in the United States and Russia. Instead of furnishing raw materials and a market for finished products such a land soon becomes a competitor. This fact becomes a strong motive tending to force the capitalists to attempt to make the new lands dependent, either as colonies or as parts of a sphere of influence. Through the impending of industry by means of unfavorable legislation they hope to keep them agrarian.

These are the chief roots of imperialism. We have seen that imperialism replaced free trade as a means of capitalist expansion. This brings us face to face with an important problem: Is imperialism the final form of capitalist world politics, or are we to look for still another? In other words, is imperialism the only means of maintaining the necessary relation between industry and agriculture within the limits of the capitalist system?

There is no doubt as to the answer. The construction of railways, the exploitation of mines, the increased production of raw materials and means of life have become necessary to the continued existence of capitalism. The capitalist class will not commit suicide; no capitalist will be willing to surrender with regard to these things. The effort to conquer agrarian regions, to reduce their populations to slavery, is too vital to the very life of capitalism to render possible the serious opposition of any capitalist group. The subjugation of these lands will cease only when their populations or the working class of the great industrial countries becomes strong enough to call a halt.

This phase of imperialism is only to be conquered by Socialism.

But imperialism has another phase. The effort to subdue and hold agrarian regions has given rise to serious conflicts between the great capitalist powers. These conflicts brought about the tremendous competition in armaments which has finally resulted in the long-prophesied world-war. Is this phase of imperialism necessary to the continued existence of capitalism? Will it disappear only with capitalism itself?

There is no economic necessity for the continuation of the great competition in the

production of armaments after the close of the present war. At best such a continuation would serve the interests of only a few capitalist groups.

On the contrary capitalist industry is threatened by the conflicts between the various governments. Every far-sighted capitalist must call out to his associates: Capitalists of all lands unite!

In the first place we have to consider the growing position of the more developed agricultural regions, which threatens not only one or the other of the capitalist governments, but all of them together. This refers both to the awakening of eastern Asia and India and to the pan-Islamic movement of Asia Minor and northern Africa.

In the same category is the increasing opposition of the proletariat of industrial nations to additional taxes.

To all this was added after the close of the Balkan war the fact that the cost of armaments and colonial expansion reached such a point that the accumulation of capital was threatened, and so the very basis of imperialism was placed in danger.

Industrial accumulation in the interior did still go on, thanks to technical development of industry. But capital was no longer pushing itself into foreign fields. This is proved by the fact that European governments had difficulty in floating their loans. The rate of interest was constantly rising.

Here are figures showing prices paid during ten years:

	Three per cent Imperial Loan	Three per cent French Bonds
1905	89	99
1910	85	97
1912	80	92
1914	77	83

This will grow worse rather than better after the war if the increase in armaments continues to make its demands on the money market. Imperialism is digging its own grave. Instead of developing capitalism it has become a means of hindering it.

But this is not equivalent to saying that capitalism is at the end of its tether. So long as it is for the capitalism of the old countries to provide a sufficient expansion of agricultural domain it can go on developing. It may, to be sure, be shattered by an uprising of the working-class. But until it has exhausted the resources of the agricultural regions which it can make subsidiary to its activities it will not necessarily perish in economic cataclysm.

Such economic bankruptcy would be hastened by a continuation of the present imperialist policy. This policy cannot be carried on much longer.

If imperialism were necessary to the continued existence of the capitalist method of production these arguments against it would make little impression on the capitalist mind. But they will make a deep impression if imperialism is only one among several means of achieving this object.

We can say of imperialism what Marx said of capitalism. Monopoly creates competition and competition creates monopoly.

The violent competition of great concerns led to the formation of trusts and the destruction of small concerns. Just so there may develop in the present war a combination of the stronger nations which will put an end to the competitive building of armaments.

From a purely economic point of view, therefore, it is not impossible that capitalism is now to enter on a new phase, a phase marked by the transfer of trust methods to international politics, a sort of super-imperialism. The working-class would be forced to fight this new form of capitalism as it did the old, but the danger from it would lie in a new direction.

This analysis was developed before Austria surprised us with her ultimatum to Serbia. The conflict between these two nations did not result from imperialistic tendencies alone. In eastern Europe nationalism still plays a role as a revolutionary force and the present conflict has a nationalist as well as an imperialist cause. Austria attempted to carry out an imperialistic policy; she annexed Bosnia and appeared to be on the point of bringing Albania within the sphere of influence. Through these activities she roused the nationalist spirit of Serbia, which felt itself threatened by Austria and thus became a danger to the Austrian government.

The world-war was brought on, not because imperialism was necessary to Austria, but because Austria, on account of the peculiarity of its organization, endangered itself through following an imperialist policy. Such a policy can be successfully followed only by a state which is internally united and which has for its field of operations a region far behind it in civilisation. But in this case a state divided against itself, a state half Slav in population, attempted to carry out an imperialistic policy at the expense of a Slav neighbor state which is quite the equal in civilisation of the adjacent parts of its imperialistic enemy.

Such a policy could bring down upon us such terrible results only through the conflicts of interest between other great powers which had been fostered by imperialism. Not all the consequences of the present struggle are yet apparent. It may lead to an increase

Military Interference.

To the Editor "International Socialist."

Sir:—I have just been reading in your columns the account by H. Spencer Wood, of the treatment meted out to some Germans at Broken Hill. Although I am not a German I have had a somewhat similar experience. A few weeks ago at about half past eight on a Friday (our late shopping night) four soldiers in uniform with bayonets fixed, and two officers with their swords came to my shop. Just as they arrived, something that people called a bomb, went off in the street opposite. Whether this was by accident or design I cannot say, but it looks suspicious, because although it did no harm, it made a big noise and drew a crowd. Two of the men were placed at the front door, and the other two were marched through the shop to guard the rear. One might suppose they were after a desperate gang as the bayonets remained in evidence throughout. The officers searched the shop for, as they said, arms, explosives, and pamphlets dealing with the present war. The only thing of a suspicious character commandeered was a short official extract from the British White Book, concerning the neutrality of Belgium and the integrity of France and her colonies, that had been exhibited in my window. I am well known here as an anti-militarist and was therefore the least likely person to possess anything of the kind the "raiders" professed to be looking for, so there can hardly be a doubt the whole thing was a farce. Considering the time chosen for the visit was the busiest in the week, when the shop was full and there were lots of people in the streets it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that the object was to damage me by creating the impression that I was a pro-German. Fourteen years ago I had my windows smashed for protesting against the hideous crime, then being perpetrated on the two little Boer states. But if the military hoped to incite a hostile demonstration, they were disappointed. Instead, as I have been told, the crowd was rather amused at the stupidity of the affair. You see we have circulated a lot of "The War Trust" and other literature, so that people here are more enlightened than at the time of the former war, although still grossly deceived by the press.

After searching the shop, the party went to my private house and looked over that, I happened to be away at the time and one of the officers left word that terrible things would happen if I did not go to his office at ten the next morning. I did not go, but sent a note explaining that I had a conscientious objection to obeying any military order. From what had been threatened I was prepared for arrest. However the officer apparently thought better of it and came himself to see me and we had a little chat. He was very civil and gave me sundry cautions. He also told me his powers were great and that he could arrest me there and then if he choose. What for, he did not say. Thus have our representatives handed over our liberties to a military caste. These people do not like me, because for the last few years I have been doing my best to stir up opposition to compulsory training.

I am, yours faithfully,

Edward Foreman.

Rockhampton, January 4 1915.

There Sounds A Call.

Air: The "Watch on the Rhine."

There sounds a call from land to land—
Ye poor give one another hand!
Then bid a halt to tyranny,
And from your slavish yoke break free!

Chorus:

The battle cry low rolleth by,
The battle cry low rolleth by,
The banner red doth float on high;
So striving live, or fighting die.

We wish for freedom, peace, our right
That no one slave in other's might,
That all mankind to work be bound,
That bread for each be somewhere found.

You bring to others goods and gold,
Yet naught for self can ever hold,
Man scornful laughs you in the face,
And feareth not the judgment place.

Then up, then up, courageous band,
The storm breaks loose upon the land;
A shout from thousand throats assists,
And high to heaven are clenched our fists.

of armaments. In this case the peace which will follow will be only in the nature of a truce. But from a purely economic point of view there is nothing to hinder its resulting in a Holy Alliance of imperialists. The longer the war lasts, the more it exhausts all participants, the nearer we shall approach the latter solution, no matter how improbable it may appear at present.

(Concluded.)

Onward Christian Soldiers.

Onward Christian Soldiers: Onward to the War,
Fight for boss and banker, fight for king and czar,
Onward to the slaughter, fighting shot and shell,
Fight for God and glory, and get blown to hell.

Onward Christian Soldiers: Onward to the War,
Kill for God and glory as you've done before.

Onward Christian Soldiers: Onward to the fray,
Hack each other to pieces, and let Jehovah pray,
He will surely bless you and help you with his might,
For its pleasing to Jehovah to see his household fight.

Onward Christian Soldiers: Onward to the War,
Fight for your delusions as you've done before.

Onward Christian Soldiers: fighting for the Lord,
Leave your wives and babies for the gun and sword.

Hunger and starvation, that will be their lot,
While fathers, sons, and brothers line up to be shot.

Onward Christian Soldiers: Onward to the War,
Go like sheep to slaughter, as you've done before.

Onward Christian Soldiers, deluded with your creeds,
Prayers and holy bibles gods and strings of beads.

If you die in battle, you'll join the heavenly host,
And dwell with God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Onward Christian Soldiers: Onward to the War,
Give your lives for nothing as you've done before.

Acid Drops.

By J. W. ROCHE.

Boneheads who rush off to the "call of the Empire" are described by the capitalist press as "our brave boys," "our gallant soldiers," etc., but when there is no need to defend "our glorious Empire," and the boneheads aforesaid go on strike for better conditions, the same capitalist press describes them as "law-breakers," "unscrupulous agitators," etc., and accuses them of making war upon a shadowy spectre called the "Public." Of course the bonehead does not see this, chiefly because he is a bonehead. Great is the stupidity of the Mug family.

The average sky pedlar and bible bouncer does not understand Socialism. Of course not! He misunderstands it. That is what he is paid for.

Jingomania is a curious disease.

It seemeth strange that the alleged apostles of the meek and lowly Nazarene are yelling for blood as freely as any Jingomaniac. They won't do the shedding though, they know a trick worth a dozen of that. It is enough to make the Jewish carpenter turn in his grave. They denounce the Germans as "materialists," yet they keep as careful an eye on the "materialistic" lawbees as any German.

Joe Cook wants Australia to send 100,000 men to the front. Of course, Joseph won't go. He is exempt. Besides Joe is too important a person to be wasted. The unemployed, who hold up pub corners, are a kind of waste product which can be used up as bullet-stoppers. Selah! Likewise Hallelujah! and praise the Lord!

As capitalism develops militarism must also develop along the lines of compulsory military service. No matter which side wins in the present war militarism of this kind will be forced upon the workers. If the Allies win Great Britain will have to adopt compulsory military service to train a huge army to meet the menace of Russia in the next world conflict when Germany will be "our ally." They will not be "barbarians" and "Huns" then but "our brave and noble allies." And the Russians will be all that the Germans are now. If Germany wins, she will impose this kind of militarism wherever she can, also to meet the same menace, Russia. In that case we will be Germany's ally and we will have compulsory military service in order to fight for "civilization" against "barbarous Russia." 'Tis a mad world my masters.

This war mania can only be cured by a world-wide application of the remedy, Socialism. When the workers wake up and apply the remedy, the war maniacs will be medically treated as insane persons who are not fit to be at large.

If the Socialist party is not to betray the workers it must always stand opposed to capitalism and its governments. There can be no compromise or there will be disaster. Anti-patriotism, anti-militarism, and anti-nationalism must become cardinal points in our propaganda for peace. We must work for the abolition of the army, the navy and the militia.—Harry Uswald in the International Socialist Review.

Every new subscriber you get for "The International Socialist" is a blow struck at Capitalism.

stantly increasing idle class, military and civil, and to take for themselves what is left.

H. CHRISTOPHERSON.

A.S.P. News & Notes.**AUSTRALASIAN SOCIALIST PARTY.**

Objective.—The social ownership with Democratic control of the means of Production, Distribution and Exchange.
Headquarters: 115 Goulburn St., Sydney.
LUKE JONES.
General Secretary.

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE.

The Central Executive met on Saturday last. Formal business was transacted. Branches are requested to note the new rules. The official stamps are now ready and branches are asked to get supplies as early as possible from headquarters.

The Executive will meet again on Saturday January 23rd. Will branches appoint delegates according to the new rules and advise the General Secretary of their names and the voting strength of branch.

LUKE JONES.
Gen. Sec.

BRISBANE.

The war is evidently doing a great deal in assisting our propaganda, and assisting forces to develop that will eventually destroy this system of exploitation. The newspapers are showing the intelligent of the community that they are trying to fool and quell the mob with their dope. At our Market Square meetings, as well as in our hall, the numbers are gradually increasing. New faces become fired up when the truth hurts, but they soon begin to turn to the truth.

Comrade Mandeno gave a fine oration on "The War and the Workers."—he was in good form. Our tactics have been changed for street meetings—we have decided to deal with different subjects, and each take a separate subject, which is proving successful. Comrade Anizark gave a lecture on "I.W.W. and Direct Action," which caused a considerable amount of discussion, most of which was hinged on the statement that the A.S.P. were not constructive. The discussion on this point showed that education is the only construction of the present time. In his reply he hoped that the same feeling would not be created as in Sydney between the two bodies, one would say the other was the "trimmery" and parliamentary fakirs, etc. Both put up a strong argument, consequently it shows narrow-mindedness.

On Tuesday night, we started the debating class again, with a fair attendance, and considerable interest was taken in the subject "War—What For?" and caused a fair amount of discussion. This will make a good means of education, therefore the comrades would like it to keep going. So put your shoulders to the wheel.

Yours, waiting for that day,
E. C. FREDLIEN.
Sec., A.S.P.

MELBOURNE BRANCH.

Shakespeare once said something about the "world being mad." Well! if William were to return to-morrow, he would not find much improvement, indeed he would no doubt say something about it being worse.

For instance, in this blessed city of ours, it can truly be said that the only sane people are socialists. Capitalism and war bid fair to send half the population to Kew. Our streets are filled with drunken patriots and soldiers; the soldiers amuse themselves by fighting the police, Chinese and civilians, and when they are not to be found they fight among themselves. On one Sunday evening, about three weeks ago, some hundreds of soldiers fought the police for four or five hours in the city proper; all traffic was stopped, and thousands of people jeered and laughed, sometimes at the police or soldiers and sometimes at nothing in particular.

Melbourne people are beginning to give up cursing the German soldiers for their brutality, especially since our soldiers have developed a playful habit of hurling beer bottles at passing tram-cars and motor buses. But after all there is the humorous side, and it can be seen when the soldiers in a sober, semi-sober and drunken condition, gather in front of St. Paul's Cathedral. They drink beer, accost women, curse and swear and some of them climb over the railings round the church and go to sleep on the doorsteps with beer bottles for pillows. Thus are they living witnesses to the fact (?) that war elevates nations.

To abolish this madness, the Melbourne branch of the A.S.P. wages war against capitalism, and education is our weapon.

On Sunday, December 27th, in the afternoon, at the Yarra Bank, Comrades Wood, Jeffreys and Bluet addressed a large audience. In the evening, in our hall, the Rev. Ronald lectured, subject, "Can War be Abolished?" The hall was packed. The lecturer was in good form, and an interest-

ing discussion followed. On the first Sunday of the New Year, Comrade Wood from Broken Hill, spoke in our hall on the "Slave, His Labour and His Wage." The lecture was first class, and the attendance good. At the Bank, Comrades Green, Bluet, O'Shannese, from South Australia, and a Comrade from W.A. did good work for Socialism. On January 10th, Comrade St. Clair was the lecturer in our hall and his subject was "Socialism and the War."

We are all anxiously waiting for the return of Comrade Wilson. There is an old saying which says that "a person is never missed until he has gone" and many of us are only beginning to realise what a tower of strength for Socialism Comrade Wilson is in Melbourne. In the meantime we are keeping the flag flying.

Written for the Melbourne Branch of the A.S.P., by

A. ST. CLAIR.

SYDNEY BRANCH.

Our Hall just now is very much justifying the efforts that in the past have been bestowed upon it.

On Tuesday a fairly large audience assembled to hear Mr. Miles of the R. A., advance arguments of justification for the present war. Among presumed causes for this war Mr. Miles claimed over population entirely rejecting as analogy "China" with her teeming millions. The standard of living being so low in China, it could not be compared with over populated and highly industrial Europe. Quite contrary to the Socialist theory of economic cause Mr. Miles declared the main cause for the war to be Physiological. A controversial discussion evolved around these contentions.

Sunday night last Gordon Brown dealt with the "Application of Working Class conscience to practical political activity." The lecturer very clearly demonstrated the inevitable conclusion of the existence of a working class conscience. The existence of this latter postulated also the existence of another opposing conscience. One has to understand the system of society embracing the two to understand in what relation they stand to each other. They each carry with them a morality peculiarly adopted to the ascendancy of their own material interests. A lively discussion followed.

Look out for a lecture by Scott Bennett. Don't forget the dance on Friday, Tickets 6d. each.

J. Q., Sec.

The Australasian Socialist Party.**Rules and Constitution.**

1. **Name.**
The name of the organisation shall be the Australasian Socialist Party.

2. **How Constituted.**
The Party shall be composed of such Socialist bodies in Australia and New Zealand as shall accept the objects, statement of principles, and policy of the A.S.P. and pay a capitation fee of one shilling per financial member per annum.

3. **Headquarters.**
The headquarters of the Party shall be at place as the Annual Conference shall fix upon.

4. **Officers.**
The officers of the Party shall consist of a General Secretary, General Treasurer, and two Trustees, all of whom shall be elected by a vote of the Party, and must be financial members of the Party for six months.

5. **Central Executive.**
The Central Executive shall consist of the General Secretary, General Treasurer, two Trustees, and representatives appointed on the ratio of Conference representation by each affiliated Branch, upon the termination of the Annual Conference, and such Representatives shall sit unless they resign or are recalled, until the subsequent Annual Conference. On all business each delegate shall have a card vote equal to the number of members he or she represents, and for which sustentation fees have been paid. The Central Executive shall meet not less than once a fortnight. Its decisions other than upon urgent and formal matters shall be referred to Branches for approval or otherwise. Delegates shall report regularly to Branches every fortnight. The Executive itself shall make a quarterly report to Branches. Branches unable to send delegates to Executive meetings shall have the right to elect proxy delegates; these delegates shall be elected by the same methods as other delegates, and carry the same voting power.

6. **Election of Officers.**
A ballot for the positions of Officers of the Party shall be taken on Nov. 21st in each year, to be returnable within one month from that date. Nominations for such positions shall be called for not later than Nov. 1st in each year, and returnable not later than Nov. 14th in each year. The ballot shall be counted by Central Executive.

Nominations shall be in writing, and signed by two financial members of the Party, and endorsed by the member nominated. The members nominated, and nominators, shall also state the term of their membership in the party and the Branch to which they belong. A simple majority shall count in all elections of officers.

7. **Annual Conference.**
A Conference of branches shall be held in the month of Dec. in each year, at a place decided upon by a majority of Branches at least three months before the date of holding Conference.

Business for Conference shall be called for by the Central Executive in September of each year, and must be in the hands of the Executive not later than the last day of October,

and furnished to affiliated Branches within a fortnight from that date.

The Conference shall consist of General Secretary, General Treasurer, two Trustees (neither of whom shall be eligible to vote), and Delegates from each affiliated Branch, upon the following basis:—Up to 50 members, 1 delegate; over 50 members and up to 100 members, 2 delegates; over 100 members and up to 150 members, 3 delegates. On all Conference business that has been submitted to Branches previous to Conference, each delegate shall have a card vote equal to the number of members he or she represents for which sustentation fees have been paid.

Where more than one delegate represents a branch the voting shall be equally divided between them.

On business introduced by delegates at Conference each delegate shall have one vote. Alternate or proxy delegates may be appointed by Branches. Decisions of Conference shall be final, but any decision of Conference may be challenged within six weeks by any two branches, and a referendum of the membership of the Party demanded. All decisions shall remain in force until amended or rescinded upon notice to Annual Conference.

8. Referendum.

Upon a Referendum being demanded, the Central Executive shall supply the requisite papers to each Branch within one month, and each Branch shall be allowed to count its own ballot prior to forwarding papers to Central Executive, within one month from date of ballot, the Executive to notify result of ballot within one week from receipt of papers.

9. Special Conference.

A Special Conference may be convened upon the demand of two or more Branches to deal with urgent business. The Central Executive shall forward the matter to Branches, and a majority of Branches shall decide whether the business to be dealt with is important enough to justify the calling of a Special Conference.

10. Membership.

A member may belong to any Branch, and membership cards shall be interchangeable with minimum subscription of 1s. 3d. per month for males, and 9d. per month for females and persons under the age of 18 years. Applicants for membership in any Branch shall sign a declaration endorsing the principles and policy of the A.S.P., and their special application shall be subject to the approval of a general meeting of the Branch concerned. No member shall belong to any other political organisation, but this provision shall not debar membership for purely industrial purposes in Trades Unions which are primarily industrial. Any member shall have the right to speak at the meeting of any Branch, but shall only exercise voting power at the Branch of which he or she is a member. No member shall be enrolled for more than one Branch.

No member under the age of 16 years shall be eligible for membership, and no member under the age of 18 years shall be permitted to vote on Principles and Policy, Rules and Constitution, or any Party or Branch business.

No employer of labor shall be eligible as a Party candidate for Parliament, nor shall he act as a delegate on Conference, or occupy any official position in Party or Branches. Any member who has fallen three months in arrears, after having been given one month's notice by the Branch Secretary, shall be considered unfinancial, and be struck off the books, unless arrears have arisen through unavoidable causes.

11. Branches.

Branches shall be self-governing within the provisions of the A.S.P. Constitution and Rules, Principles, and Policy. Branches of the A.S.P. may be formed by not less than six persons who accept the principles and policy of the A.S.P. by making application to the Central Executive and receiving endorsement. All Branches shall have the right to elect as many officers as they deem advisable, but no member shall be eligible for office, paid or honorary, in any Branch established six months unless six months a member of the Branch in which he is seeking office.

Each Branch shall notify the Central Executive of the number of financial members every half-year for the purpose of determining voting strength of delegates on Central Executive.

12. Expulsion of Members.

Any officer or member of the A.S.P., believing that any member has been guilty of a breach of the Rules or Principles or Policy of the Party, shall have power to move that the said member be called upon to show cause to the Executive of the Branch to which such member belongs, why he or she should not be expelled or otherwise penalised. The Branch Executive shall appoint a date for the hearing of the charge, of which at least 14 days' notice shall be given to such member, and if satisfied that the charge has been proved, and if it is of sufficient gravity, the Branch may suspend, or expel, such member from membership. Any member so suspended, or expelled, shall have the right to claim that the papers in connection with the case shall be sent on to the Central Executive, who shall finally hear and determine such case.

Any member expelled from the A.S.P. shall not again be admitted to membership except at the discretion of the Central Executive or Annual Conference.

13. Suspension of Officers.

The Central Executive may suspend any Party Officer who does not fulfil his duties in the interest of the Party. When such suspension takes place, the said officer shall have the right to appeal to Branches, and the Central Executive shall forward to Branches a printed statement of the facts in connection with both sides of the case. If a majority vote of members in Branches upholds the suspension, the suspended officer shall be recalled, and his or her place filled for the remainder of the term of office by Central Executive.

14. Expulsion of Branches.

Any Branch of the A.S.P. believing that another Branch has been guilty of a breach of Rules, Principles, and Policy of the A.S.P., shall have power to move that such Branch be called upon to show cause to the Central Executive why its charter should not be cancelled. Any Branch so challenged shall be given 28 days' notice of the hearing of such charges, which shall be submitted to the Branches by the Central Executive, and in

the event of the decision of the Branches upholding the charge the said Branch shall be expelled by the Central Executive. Any Branch so expelled from the A.S.P. shall not be again admitted, except at the discretion of the Central Executive or Annual Conference.

15. Vacancies.

If any extraordinary vacancy occurs among Party officers through sickness, resignation, recall, or other causes, such vacancy shall be filled by the Central Executive at a Special Meeting called for the purpose.

16. Dues.

Branches shall pay 1s. per financial member per year as sustentation fee, and as affiliation with the International Socialists' Bureau, and 3d. per month per member for the upkeep of the Press; the same to be paid by purchase of stamps at 4s. 1d. per dozen from the Central Executive. At the end of each year, Branches shall return unsold stamps and be credited with same.

No subscriptions shall be received by Branches without affixing the official Party stamps to membership cards. When members are unemployed or sick, the Secretary of the Branch shall affix stamps for the term of unemployed or sickness, and initial same "unemployed" or "sick," as the case may be.

17. Official Newspapers and Pamphlets.

"The International Socialist" shall be the central and official organ of the A.S.P.

Any newspaper or pamphlet published by Branches must be submitted to the Central Executive, who shall endorse such papers or pamphlets if they are in accordance with the Principles and Policy of the A.S.P. In the event of such newspapers or pamphlets being rejected by the Central Executive, the Branch concerned shall have the right to appeal to Branches.

In the event of a paper issued by any Branch violating the Principles and Policy of the A.S.P., the charter issued to such Branch shall be immediately cancelled by the Central Executive, and the method of determining such charge shall be that provided in Rules 12 and 14.

18. Banking Account.

A Banking Account shall be opened in the names of the two Trustees, Treasurer, and Secretary, three of whose signatures shall be required for all cheques, and all accounts in connection with the Party shall be paid by cheque.

19. Emergency Questions.

When questions arise such as the Federal Referenda, on which Conference has not pronounced, the Executive shall, after submitting same to Branches, declare the attitude of the A.S.P. in connection therewith in accordance with the decision of the majority of the Branches. Such pronouncement shall be loyally supported by the Party Branches, Members, and Press, and shall be subject to review at the following Conference.

A candidate must be a member of the A.S.P. for twelve months.

No member or Branch of the A.S.P. shall enter into any alliance, temporary or permanent, with any other than a Revolutionary Socialist Party. Socialist candidates shall be selected by the Branches concerned, and where no Branch exists by the Central Executive, and before running be endorsed by the Central Executive, to which the candidate shall pledge himself.

A SURPRISE PACKET.**THIS LOT FOR ONE SHILLING!**

The New Song Book,
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Jones's Boy,
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An Open Letter to Boy Conscripts,
The Bible in State Schools (Joseph McCabe),
The Church and the People,
Ethics of Socialism,
Economic Discontent (Father Hagerty),
Six Anti-Militarist Postcards,
Wage Labour and Capital (Marx),
A. S. P. Manifesto on War.
Try a packet for propaganda purposes in your district.

ANOTHER SUBCARD**COMPETITION**

Comrade Easterabb, winner of the first prize in last competition, suggests another to which he generously offers to donate his prize—the first volume of Marx's "Capital," provided the winner sells over 22 sub-cards. He will stand out, but will still continue sub-getting up north. Therefore, from January 1 to March 31, 1915, comrades will indulge in a friendly competition. The first prize will be Marx's "Capital," vol. 1; second, Labriola's Essays on Materialist Conception of History; third, one of Kerr & Co.'s 2s. series. Cards may be obtained from the editor.

A RARE CHANCE.**TO BRANCH SECRETARIES, LIBRARIANS, WRITERS AND SPEAKERS.**

We have secured five copies of "The Encyclopedia of Social Reform," edited by W. D. P. Bliss, with the co-operation of the Highest Authorities in England and the United States.

This work sweeps the entire horizon of sociology and all topics directly or indirectly allied or involved. It contains the latest opinions, statistics, and information on Sociology, Political Economy, Political Science, Wealth, Industrial Conditions and Institutions, and on all the great problems of modern civilisation. The most eminent authorities in the various schools of economy and social thought have set forth their pleas, enabling the reader to compare, weigh, and judge their respective claims.

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Ray Everitt, Secretary.

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